

STEERING, LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

January 5, 2015

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Paul Johnson  
Commissioner Allen McAdoo  
Commissioner Robert Peay  
Commissioner Jeff Phillips  
Commissioner Robert Stevens  
Commissioner Brad Turner  
Commissioner Trey Gooch, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess      Lisa Nolen  
Lisa Duke Crowell   Susan Allen  
Robert Arnold       Rick Spence  
Sonya Stephenson    Greg Books  
Bill Ketron           Mike Sparks  
Dr. Bryan Terry      Jim Tracy  
Dawn White           Mike Kusch

Carol Cook, Joe Gourley, Phil Dodd, David Nipper, Joe Frank Jernigan, Doug Shafer, Adrianna Roberts, Leya Franklin, Stephen Sensil, Becky Shelton

Chairman Gooch presided and called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with all members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Turner moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as mailed. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

DISCUSS CONSENT AGENDA:

Chairman Gooch reminded the Committee of the discussion last month regarding a consent agenda for the Commission suggested by Commissioner Stevens. Commissioner Stevens advised the Consent Agenda would be for non-controversial items such as grant requests, easements, etc. The Committee was provided a proposed Resolution and Amendment to Commission Rule III prepared by the County Attorney's Office. Commissioner Stevens advised he would suggest one change to the Amendment to Commission Rules in that the Commission Chairman should be the one to make the determination to designate matters for the Consent Agenda and not the County Mayor. The County Mayor is not always the Commission Chairman.

Commissioner Stevens also advised while the Commission Rules were being modified, he would like to discuss having the Commission minutes sent to all Commissioners. The County Clerk currently emails the digest but not the complete minutes. Mayor Burgess advised he does like to get the digest. County Clerk Crowell addressed the Committee advising the minutes can be lengthy and she suggested the minutes be posted to the County Sharepoint site and anyone can then access the minutes. Ms. Crowell advised there is a need for the digest. Commissioner Stevens advised he felt this was a reasonable idea and Mayor Burgess also approved. Rick Spence advised there is a process for approval of the digest and minutes through the Mayor's office and the Chairman Pro Tem. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Stevens moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve the Resolution and Amendment to Commission Rules establishing a Consent Agenda with "County Mayor" designating matters changed to "Commission Chairman". Additionally, Rule 4 of the Commission Rules to be amended for the digest and minutes to be posted on the Rutherford County Sharepoint site within fourteen (14) days of the meeting. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

SALE OF SURPLUS SHERIFF'S OFFICE VEHICLES TO OTHER COUNTIES:

The Committee was provided a proposed Resolution for Sale of Surplus Sheriff's Office Vehicles to Other Counties. Sheriff Arnold advised other counties have expressed interest in buying

surplus patrol vehicles. Sheriff Arnold advised the equipment in the Crown Vic cars is not compatible with the new vehicles being purchased. Cameras are now digital. In the past, the equipment was pulled off the vehicles and the County could get \$800 for the cars if used as scrap metal and between \$800 to \$1,000 if auctioned. The Resolution provides the old equipment will remain with the surplus cars to be sold to other counties for no less than \$2,000. In this regard, the vehicles bring in more revenue. The equipment pulled off the vehicles is just in storage and not being used. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Turner moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve the Resolution for Sale of Surplus Sheriff's Office Vehicles to Other Counties as presented. This motion passed unanimously."

Commissioner McAdoo asked if the Public Safety Committee had reviewed the Resolution. Mayor Burgess advised it had not and the Resolution will be taken to Public Safety Committee before going to the Commission.

#### MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS:

Chairman Gooch introduced the legislators asking for what they consider the biggest issues this session.

Senator Ketron advised the budget as the Governor has asked every department to try to make cuts. Additionally, TennCare and Medicaid expansion as this is now one-third of the entire budget. And Common Core. Senator Ketron also discussed traffic congestion between Murfreesboro and Nashville and options including hot lanes, using the CSX railroad line, a monorail, etc. This stretch of interstate has the highest traffic count in the state.

Representative Sparks advised he had provided a couple of proposed Resolutions he was willing to carry forward if asked to regarding unfunded mandates. Additionally, tow truck legislation will be looked at this year.

Senator Tracy advised challenges are the budget and health care. There will be a special session on Insure Tennessee. Additional issues are transportation and education.

Representative White advised top issues are the budget and funding fiscal notes, Common Core and Insure Tennessee.

Representative Terry will be sworn in January 13 but advised he felt there was a disconnect with the state delegation in Washington and he felt there should be meetings with them like the current meeting. Representative Terry is in an information gathering process. He thinks Pro Life issues will be discussed and he has been approached regarding the same.

Commissioner McAdoo advised he was concerned with the Bradyville Pike project. Senator Tracy advised he thought it was on point and the Bradyville Pike and Jefferson Pike projects are on the top of his list. He will follow up and get a report on where the projects stand but they are dependent on funding.

Commissioner Peay advised most of his questions were answered in the opening statements but he agreed on the monorail to Nashville and he was concerned regarding education and the need to continue with a good system. He was concerned with charter schools and the voucher system. People move here for the school system in Rutherford County. Senator Tracy advised he thought charter schools should be under local control. Representative White advised they would probably look at the voucher system because not all of the State has teachers as good as Rutherford County and the City of Murfreesboro.

Commissioner Johnson inquired about the State transportation formula. Senator Tracy advised Tennessee has no debt on roads. As cars have gotten more fuel efficient and alternative sources such as electric cars, the tax revenue on gas and diesel has gone down. Additionally, less is being received from the Federal government.

Commissioner Turner advised he was concerned with unfunded mandates, traffic issues, immigration, pro-life vision, Second Amendment gun rights and TennCare/Medicare expansion. Additionally, Commissioner Turner advised he would like to meet more than once a year with the delegation.

Commissioner Phillips advised he has seen unimaginable changes in his lifetime in Rutherford County. The State view is to cut back but it is hard for local government to cut back due to growth. The County needs better ways to utilize land and needs extension of water lines to develop land. Counties need alternative revenue sources and more local input at the State level on revenue sources would be good. Challenges come with growth. Representative Sparks advised revenue sources are limited.

Commissioner Stevens inquired if the Hall income tax would be done away with and what about that revenue. Senator Ketron advised the Governor was fighting and asked the Mayor to provide the amount that affects the County.

Commissioner Stevens advised he had heard the Jefferson Pike project had been put on hold indefinitely and he asked the status. Representative Sparks advised he had been promised the project will be finished within five years. Senator Tracy advised they are in the process of buying right-of-ways. The next phase is construction and it comes down to funding. Jefferson Pike is the #1 project in Rutherford County but it is dependent on funding. The hardest part is buying right-of-ways. Nissan is very interested in the project as well.

Commissioner Stevens asked since last year had there been any action to get another I-24 interchange. Senator Tracy advised it was under study but making progress. Representative Sparks advised the argument to make is economic development.

Commissioner Stevens asked the legislators to support limiting mailings prior to elections and questioned the amount of postage allowed for Representatives and Senators and asked if this was an area that could be cut in view of all the electronic options. Representative Sparks advised the postage was not much money to communicate with the people in their districts and constituents.

Commissioner Shafer asked what is the incentive for high school students to graduate. The school system grew 1,200 students this year and that is a middle school. More teachers are needed for the RTI program. Senator Tracy advised the incentive for high school is because they make more money over their lifetime.

Commissioner Kusch asked if the annexation bill was dead. Senator Tracy advised there is no final decision yet. Mayor Burgess advised the Legislature already passed a bill on annexation without a referendum.

Commissioner Kusch asked if there were any ideas on funding for transportation infrastructure. Senator Tracy advised it was under study for a multiple approach. Senator Ketron advised they were looking at taxing the service industry such as nail salons, lawyers, etc.

Senator Ketron advised one issue with growth is it is hard to manage and along with the good comes the bad. He is concerned with human trafficking which is big in rural counties where mothers

prostitute minor daughters to buy meth as well as other forms of trafficking. Tennessee is ranked third in the country and he requested the Public Safety Committee and the Sheriff's Office address.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Gooch declared the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

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TREY GOOCH, Chairman